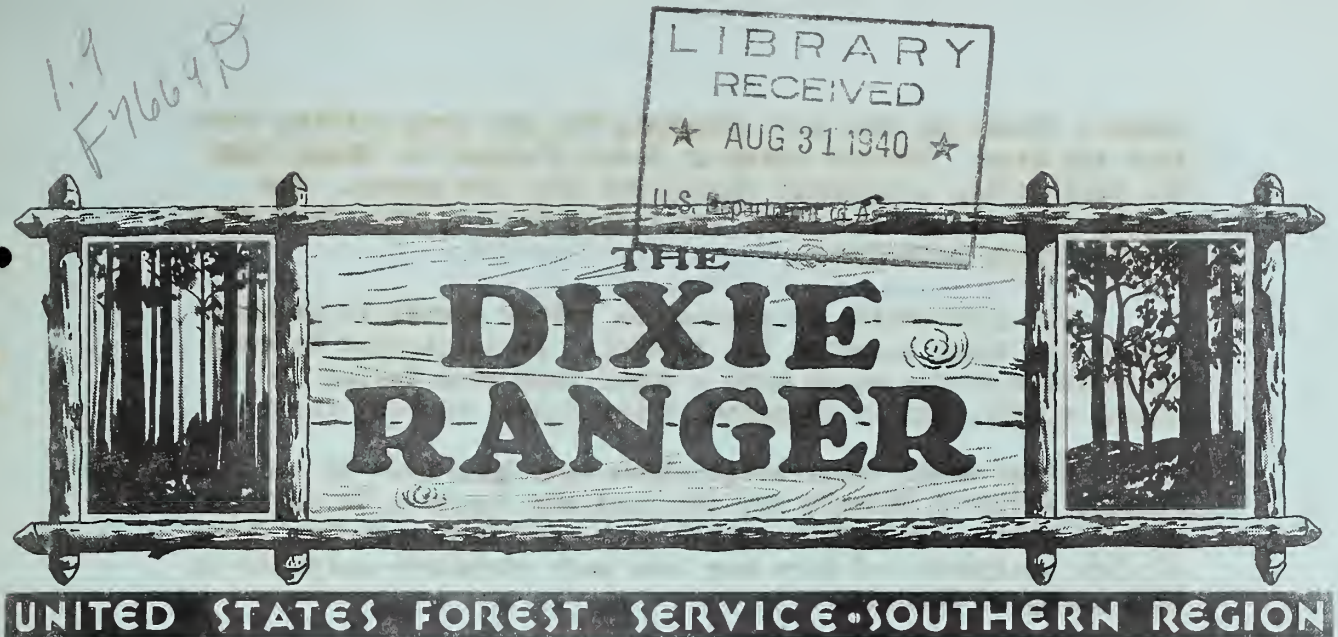


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FLORIDA'S ONE-MAN FIRE "CREW"

As his special contribution to the Southern States' fire control meeting recently held at Camp O'Leno, near Lake City, Leon Mathis, Proprietor of the Mathis Welding Co., Lake City, Florida, added a back-firing attachment to his suppression plow. One of these attachments has been purchased for use on the tractor plow outfit on the Osceola District of the Florida National Forests. It consists of a small high compression tank and pressure gauge mounted on the rear cross member of the plow, with metal lines to each side. In operation the tank is partially filled with gasoline, then air added through a built-in valve to 100 pounds pressure. It may be released through a small orifice on either side of the plow and when ignited produces a flame from three to six feet in length (depending on need and controlled by a valve on each line). A small cup stuffed with lamp wicking immediately beneath the orifice relights the gasoline flame if it blows out.

On several trials one man drove the outfit and by himself controlled a small fire. In ordinary use of course additional men would be necessary to hold the back-fired line.

The operation of the entire outfit is as follows:

A rolling coulter cuts the sod and small roots. Behind the coulter a middle buster opens a furrow which is widened by a disc on each side and immediately behind it. Following the

discs a flange on each side prevents the sod from falling back into the line. Through holes in these flanges the flame from the back-firing attachment shoots out into the grass. The result is a clean line about two inches deep by four feet wide, automatically back-fired.

The plow (which is mounted on rubber tires) is trailed behind the truck carrying the tractor. It is planned to keep this outfit in the woods with a small road crew during the coming winter, and to dispatch it (by radio) to each fire.

These small suppression plows have been used by the Florida National Forests for the past two years in an experimental status. They have proven to be our most valuable piece of fire equipment and have now been made standard equipment on this group of forests.

--- D. J. Morriss,
Apalachicola National Forest

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NATIONAL LUMBER MANUFACTURERS PLAN TEN-
POINT FORESTRY PROGRAM

The ten-point forestry program being planned by the Forestry Division of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association was outlined by G. H. Collinwood, the Association's new Chief Forester, during the May meeting held in Chicago by members of the NLMA executive, advisory, and forest conservation committees.

The points emphasized by Mr. Collinwood follow:

1. Cooperation with Federated Association foresters to formulate industry programs for improved forest practices and to coordinate regional forest policy with national forest policy.
2. Cooperation with other forest industries to effect a basis national forest policy.
3. "Conservation News Digest".
4. Periodical reports on statistics, research, and industry or governmental action.
5. Articles to inform the public of existing forestry programs, to dispel the "timber famine" propaganda, and to enlist public support for a national forest program, designed on "The American Pattern".

6. Stimulation of industry support of forest practices which will keep forest lands productive, also to foster the idea of permanent forest industry operation.

7. Removal of economic and political obstacles to forestry practice, and encouragement of appropriate public forestry cooperation.

8. Encouragement of affirmative interest, attitude, and action by forest land owners and organizations.

9. Representation on the "Forest Industries Conference" which is composed of representatives of government agencies and forest industries for the purpose of considering mutual problems.

10. Contact with activities and program of public and private agencies dealing with forestry matters.

-- C. W. Strauss
Regional Office

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FAREWELL - AND GOOD LUCK - TO UNCLE BOB MCCUISON

(Ed. Note: The Ozark gave "Uncle" Bob McCuison a party on August 3 to celebrate his retirement as Fire Guard after many years service. The following message was sent Uncle Bob by Henry Koen, his supervisor for 17 years.)

This occasion marks the end of a successful career, and of a task well done by one of the Forest Service stalwarts - a man of pioneer courage, a devoted husband and affectionate father - a man appreciative of friends and loyal to those friends in the highest degree.

Uncle Bob will never realize the help he has been to his fellow forest workers. His cheerfulness, his kindly guidance, his fearlessness and determination for any task at hand will continue on as a heritage of service finely performed.

I first met Uncle Bob on the evening of August 5, 1913, at Chess & Weymand's Camp on Barkshed of the Sylamore Ranger District. The following day, he instructed me in marking timber on the Barkshed stave scale area. I remember well his painstaking instructions and his serious concern in getting over to me the responsibility of my new job. From that first day of our meeting until the end of my supervisorship on the Ozark, it was my privilege to seek his counsel, and many are the times I have left him with higher spirits and a more determined resolution to "carry on".

He will especially remember some of the more exciting incidents of our mutual work. Those times, for instance, when he let the pistol go off in the wee hours of the morning, in a tent; when we went to see if the Government's witness, Mrs. Greer, was being intimidated; when he reported a fire on Pilot Mountain and I informed him the area had just burned, and he replied that it didn't make a darned bit of difference if it had, it was burning again; and that time when we went to Falling Water in a desperate effort to break down woods burning in that community -- I could go on and on with recitals of similar occurrences, and would do so if I could be present this evening to reminisce over a loyal service and friendship that has continued through all these years. It is not in my power to tell of the value of that service and loyalty since those early days when Uncle Bob, alone, was the lookout man and the whole suppression crew of the Turnpike protection force.

Since I cannot be with you this evening, Uncle Bob, I wish for you many long and happy years to come, and sincerely hope that our paths cross many times over the course of these years. With your leaving the Forest, the last of the 1913-ers are gone from the Ozark.

-- Henry Koen

Craggy Gardens

For two weeks in June each year this beautiful garden of Mother Nature has the spotlight of the nation focused on its bloom. Thousands of people from practically every state in the Union collect in Asheville for the annual pilgrimage to see the lovely purple rhododendron burst into bloom. Ordinary white rhododendron won't do -- it must be purple; neither will any other particular spot such as the Pisgah Ledge or Grandfather Mountain do -- it must be Craggy Gardens in all of its stately grandeur and imposing vastness.

One wonders just what it is that makes people drive long distances to see a flower in bloom; to walk up a steep cobble stone path a quarter of a mile, two miles, or four miles if they desire, to gain the scene or feeling or picture they wish. The young, the middle-aged, and the elderly plod side by side with the same mutual desire; the rich and the poor seek the sublimity of purple rhododendron in bloom. Perhaps it is the atmosphere, or the elevation of thought, or the feeling of vastness found only in things of beauty prepared by Mother Nature as a special discourse for human beings who oftentimes lose the perspective of living.

The Craggy Gardens are eight miles air line from Mt. Mitchell, the highest mountain east of the Mississippi River. From the parking ground where it is necessary to start walking the elevation increases from 5280 ft. to 6100 ft., the top of the Pinnacle and the Dome. Most people walk to the top of the Pinnacle, a short climb, and gaze on the flowering splendor of the Dome a mile away. Truly this is the most magnificent view of the trip and the one that probably lingers the longest in the mind's eye of those who see it.

The gardens, as known to the public, are located on top of the Pinnacle. The mountain top is so completely covered with purple rhododendron that when in bloom it appears to be hand painted. On many portions of this area the rhododendron is interwoven with open grassy meadows giving the appearance of formality similar to a well arranged flower garden. This arrangement of plants is purely accidental, or perhaps again the Creator has given us another example of order and uniformity found so often in Nature but sadly lacking in this war-torn world of today.

-- JOHN W. SQUIRES,
Pisgah

BRITAIN RESTRICTS USE OF PAPER

Disruption of raw material imports for the local paper industry, together with the sharp curtailment in imports of finished paper has led to the adoption of drastic measures in Great Britain to restrict the use of this item, according to a report from the office of the American Commercial Attache, London. Business firms have been urged and the Government has adopted the practice of having letters of more than one page typed on both sides of the paper and carbon copies made on the back of the letters which are answered. With the aid of special stickers, envelopes from incoming mail are being used for the outgoing mail.

It is stated by authorities in the British paper industry that the average British consumption of paper for ordinary private purposes can be cut to 30 percent without any vital need being affected.

-- "Paper Trade Journal,"
July 18, 1940

THE FAMILY ALBUM

"For the Best Interest of the Service ----"

Dear Chigger Pete:

I know you often say that coming and going is part of existence in the Forest Service, and that we should accept philosophically those things which are for the best interest of the Service. That's easy enough to do when those things are detached and far removed, but something else again when they strike home -- And it seems to some of us that the Washington office is laying a "heavy hand" on the Southern Region. It's latest one-handed snatch is Don Clark, who takes over as Assistant Chief, Division of Operation. His Forest Service record, especially here, has made him a natural choice for this well merited promotion.

Regional Forester Kircher gave the following statement to the press: "The transfer of Clark is a distinct loss to the Southern Region, where he has established a record of outstanding excellence in his field of work. It is in recognition of this fine record that he is being advanced to a position of greater responsibility in a field of broader activity. He possesses to a remarkable degree the faculty for recognizing the ability of men who work under his supervision, and the leadership for developing these abilities to the best advantage. As an able administrator and organizer, his influence will now extend throughout the entire national forest system."

There are no words though to tell of the ways in which he will be missed by those who have known him and worked with him here. I've made some notes on your calendar about some of the visitors who called to discuss his leaving. Their expressions of regret over Don Clark's loss to the Region are proof that his personality and capacity for organization created a spirit of teamwork and esprit de corps throughout the Region which is unsurpassed in the Forest Service. He is a real forester - there's something of the forest in his strength and deep calm purpose, which instinctively inspires loyalty. He never uses the influence of his personality though to build up loyalty for Don Clark, but always for the Forest Service.

Those who have stopped to see you have expressed their regret in different ways, but there is the same note of personal loss in what each one has to say - sentiment of friendship that should be warm in recollection to Don Clark when he recalls his sojourn in Region 8. One person spoke of missing his counsel - "He is so easy to talk to, and you know he will always tell you something -- there's no buck passing from him." Another one remarked, "And when you talk to him, you get his undivided attention, he really listens to what you have to say." And he really should appreciate this one - "Yes, and he always knows what you mean - even if you don't mean anything."

He is the sort of person who will make a good run in any direction in which he is chosen to lead the field, but we needed him on our own team. We yield, however, to the best interest of the game, and send him on with the deeply sincere good wishes of every one in the Region.

Speaking of "teams" it's a safe bet that the team of "Bill and Don" will be a winning combination - anyway, our money is on them to win, place or show!

-- Your Girl Friday.

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PART OF DESOTO NATIONAL FOREST TRANS-
FERRED TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT

S. 4119, covering the transfer of 65,000 acres from the DeSoto National Forest to the War Department for military use, has passed both Houses and will now be sent to the President. This bill authorizes the Secretary of War to select this acreage from lands contiguous to the Shelby State Military Reservation. On recommendation of the Department of Agriculture, the bill was amended to provide that when the lands are no longer needed for military purposes they will be returned to the DeSoto National Forest.

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CAST A SYMPATHETIC SMILE

The following letter was received by Fire Guard John Wright who resides in a little town named for his forebears on the former Choctawhatchee National Forest. The envelope was addressed: "Mr. Right, The Old Gentleman, Right, Fla."

"Mr. Right

"Between Malone Creek and Milligan Creek next to the Yellow River it has been tar wooded over and over and there is no tar-wood there. But they have left som trachey pore tops that I could use for stove wood for my personal use only and not to sell. There is no wood this side of River at all none a taul and would please send me a permitt to get tops of no tar wood value between these creeks where it has done been tar wooded over and over before the War Department takes it over in September. You woulden charge me for it would you and its just laying there and is roten to no good and it wont damage no one. There is no wood for me outside the for-

est I will not bother in green section I only have a T Model trailer to haul it with and wont haul much at a time.

"Please tell me to get some stove wood tops - please.

Yours

(signed)

"I wont do eney thing rong to the Forest."

We smile a bit, of course, but it's a kindly and sympathetic smile that mkes one feel good inside -- for here lies one of the hidden compensations in being a Forest officer -- the knowledge that we can grant this request, and that if our labors are successful we can bring better schools, roads, recreation, wildlife, economic and social opportunities to our less fortunate forest citizens. The obstacles are not so big at that!

-- E. G. Thurlow,
Florida.

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DISASTER HITS FIDDLIN BILL

Disaster in the form of a cloudburst struck "Fiddlin Bill" Hensley and laid him low last Wednesday evening. Bill heard an ominous rumbling in the sky and during a powerful thunder and lightning storm watched clouds from the north-east meet clouds from the southwest. As the colision took place water began to fall and seemed to pour into the ravine above Bill's farm. Suddenly a solid mass of water rushed down the hollow carrying burned snags and logs before it. The water and the debris tore through Bill's tobacco patch, tomatoe patch, and corn patch, causing havoc and ruin to all it touched. "Fiddlin Bill's" barn, a sturdy structure, was next in line of the terrible destruction. Built this year of heavy logs and timbers; Bill thought his barn might check the invasion, but no, the raging torrent brushed the barn aside, demolishing it completely and rushed on to devour Bill's crib and potatoe crop. In all "Fiddlin Bill" estimates he has been damaged \$550.00; all his year's labor gone, and his investment lost.

Now why did this cloudburst pick "Fiddlin Bill" for it's victim? Could it be the two forest fires that escaped from the new ground "Fiddlin Bill" had burned this May? Bill says, "No", but Forest Service officials are wondering why other areas weren't affected. After all several inches of valuable leaf duff that could hold thousands of gallons of water were destroyed by the forest fires. The debris and litter that struck the farm was all badly burned. Would this debris accumulated if there hadn't been a bad fire? Other ravines that hadn't been burned off held back the water until it ran off in the normal manner. Mr. Bosworth, of the U. S. Forest Service, is convinced the damage would not have been so severe if fire had not ravaged the forests before the cloudburst.

"Fiddlin Bill" Hensley, of Sleepy Gap, Address, Arden, N. C. RD. #1, needs help now. For the first time in his 71 years Bill is calling on his friends for aid. "No relief, mind you", says Bill. "I've never been on relief and hope I never will be, but I sure could stand a little help from my friends this winter."

"Fiddlin Bill" is an old veteran and a tough old hombre, if there ever was one. Fiddling over the radio is one of Bill's greatest pleasures, but don't think Bill is all musician. He has a 25 calibre Browning automatic that can hit an eye at 200 yards and he has a shotgun for short ranges. "Yes sir," says Bill, "Sleepy Gap can handle it's own parachutists."

-- Bill Huber,
Pisgah.

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TVA TRANSFERS 16,270 ACRES TO NANTAHALA N. F.

Acting Chief Clapp has accepted from the TVA transfer of 16,270 acres of land, obtained when the TVA purchased land to construct the huge Hiawassee dam and to control its watershed.

The acreage has been assigned to the Southern Region as a part of the Nantahala National Forest.

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The sympathy of the entire Region is extended to Mr. P. J. Paxton, whose father, Mr. T. R. Paxton of Princeton, Indiana, died on July 30.

OCALA PARADE

"What are those animals that look like deer and have white spots on them?" "Did they paint those white spots on those little deer just for the parade?" "Oh, son, look at the little deer!. Click, click, click went the cameras. No, it was not the circus parade, it was the Ocala National Forest float passing down the street in the City of Ocala's July 4 celebration parade.

Approximately 10,000 people saw the Ocala National Forest float which participated in the Independence Day celebration program parade in Ocala and hundreds of people, both old and young, saw spotted fawns for the first time in their lives. Except for a large 12 foot "Ocala National Forest" banner sign and one large James Montgomery Flagg poster mounted in a rough sand pine log frame on each side of the truck near the cab, all the trimmings and decorations for the float were obtained from the Forest. There weren't any fancy crepe paper or other artificial ornaments on the float. A ton and a half stake truck used in the float was framed with rough 2x4 lumber and palmetto fans used to drape the sides, front, and back. A solid thatch roof of palmetto fans was laid to drag the ground on the bottom and to stand up 6 or 8 inches above the level of the truck bed all the way around it. A fancy rosette of palmetto fans formed the streamlined front of the truck and a rear extension was made to simulate a palmetto thatch roof. In the center of the truck was a small 4x4 lookout tower in which six-year old, tow headed Bill Edmundson, wearing a Forest Service green uniform, rode with his telescope to his eyes and a telephone hanging by his side. Underneath the tower and completely covering the truck bed was a dense sand pine forest. On the rear extension of the truck was a small coop made with chicken wire and 2x4 lumber concealed with pine boughs, in which three small spotted fawns rode with spanish moss draped at their backs.

Every one is still talking about the float, saying it was the best one in the parade.

-- J. W. Cooper,
Florida

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The entire Region extends sympathy to Mr. L. S. Good, whose Mother, Mrs. Olive Good of Arvada, Colorado died on August 7.

FORESTRY MOVING PICTURES SHOWN
TO NEARLY 50,000 PEOPLE

The South Carolina State Forest Service reports that during the last fiscal year 244 motion picture shows were conducted principally in rural communities. These shows were under the direction of District Foresters and were held in all but two counties. The total attendance was about 50,000 people; three-fourths of whom were children.

One of the most popular pictures was "Pine Ways to Profit" filmed by the U. S. Forest Service principally in South Carolina.

The films used were supplied through the cooperation of the United States Film Service of the federal government and the U. S. Forest Service.

State Forester H. A. Smith said, "The moving picture program carried out during the past fiscal year has been highly successful and it is hoped that we will be able to increase this activity during the coming year".

-- S. C. Forest Service
(News Release)

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THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

Mrs. Robert Downtin of Candler, N. C., was calmly fishing Davidson River just above the Trout Rearing Station when a whirl of water spun her lure and a large speckled disdainfully turned his back on such artificial bait. Mrs. Downtin gave her line that professional jerk that makes the fly fishermen and the trout was hooked. Not in the mouth but in the dorsal fin! Below Mrs. Downtin two men were fishing and at the same time Mrs. Downtin hooked the big trout one of these fishermen hooked a whopper and the fights were on. The lady called for help; the men answered in the masculine negative! In a few minutes all was over, and our heroine had landed a beautiful 16" brook trout weighing over two pounds and as fat and sassy as could be. The two fishermen below our heroine are advertising in all papers for one whopper trout, one spinner, one leader, and parts of one fishing line --

Western North Carolina fishermen are always modest and one day when confronted by two fishermen in eastern North Carolina who were bragging about catching 21" and 20" trout,

Mr. L. L. Burgin hated to mention his fishing luck. However, as the bragging continued Burgin casually stated, "Well, I caught an eight inch brown on South Mills River". "An eight inch brown?" questioned one of the Easterners. "Why mention that along with our 20" and 21" fish?" "Well", said Burgin in his own modest fashion, "We measure ours between the eyes!"

Charlotte Patton and George Wrigley of Brevard, N. C., were fishing down South Mills River. George, a fast fisherman, soon left Charlotte behind, caught a nice mess of fish, and returned to his car. Charlotte fished down through the Big Bend and as it was getting late decided to go back up to the trail. After fighting laurel and rhododendron, Charlotte decided even a bear couldn't go through that thicket and returned to the river. Plodding, sliding, and stumbling in the darkness, Charlotte had to admit to herself that things were pretty bad. However, about 9 P. M. when George Wrigley frantically searching for Charlotte found her splashing about five feet from the trail, Charlotte replied to his question, "Lost? Of course not. I was just trying to find out how far I could walk up this stream in the dark without falling in!"

W. F. Norton of Brevard, N. C., apparently doesn't like water as well as Charlotte does. Norton was the first man at the checking station on Friday, July 19, arriving at 4 A. M., and also the first to check out. Warden Huffman was surprised to find that such an energetic person as Norton had not caught any fish and asked him, "How come?" Norton replied, "Well, I tried it for a half hour but I just couldn't get the knack of fishing without getting wet feet and decided I'd better quit!"

Perry Davis, Warden, says that the fishing now is nothing to what it was years ago. "Why", says Perry, "I can remember fishing one morning on North Fork of French Broad, when a heavy fog came up, and I couldn't see the stream. However, I kept pulling in fish with every cast. Good big fish too, all over twenty inches in size. When the fog lifted I found I was a hundred yards from the stream in the woods and had still been catching fish. The noise of thousands of fish hurrying back to the stream through the dry leaves could be heard for miles!"

--- H. B. Bosworth,
Pisgah.

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Be charitable and indulgent to every one but thyself.

--- Joubert.

OUT OF THE FILES

Once Upon A Time to be accused of having a Class C fire was tantamount to calling anyone a so-and-so without smiling. Recently in cleaning out a ranger's files the following two letters came to light:

"Detroit, Oregon, December 14, 1936. District Ranger: Kindly advise me at your earliest convenience whether or not any class C fires have occurred on your district this year, and if so, please attach the report called for under letter of July 5, 1936 with the above case designation. Yours very truly, Kermit W. Linstodt, Asst. Ranger."

"McKenzie Bridge, Oregon, December 17, 1936. Kermit W. Linstodt, Detroit, Oregon. Sire: Insinuatest thou that we have had a Class C fire? By the left foot of St. Swithins I do believe thou art possessed and may the foul fiends ring a full round moon on they pate in reward for thy boldness. Never since the words of St. Wittle and long before Hastings hath such boldness been uttered. By my troth art sure thou art not jesting?

"The wrath of Engles riseth even as did the arrows from the long bows of the good Norman archers at Hastings. May all of the Norman Saints be upon thee and the Saxon Saints also, although these be of lesser quality, but mayhap shall give thee full measure.

"Varlot, knave, ingrate, poltroon and rascal, consider thyself well trounced.

"Wherein I have set my hand unto the above on this day. Engles De McKenzie."

Thank the Lord there is some humor still left in our midst.

-- A. T. Moses
(Six Twenty Six)

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It is estimated that one day's operation of a fleet of bombing and pursuit planes necessitates the consumption of an amount of motor fuel sufficient to operate 3,000 American passenger cars for a full year. Data shows that 2,400 bombers consume about 288,000 gallons per hour, 1,600 pursuit planes consume 160,000 gallons per hour. Total daily consumption on the basis of five hours in the air, exceeds two and one-quarter million gallons of fuel.

-- American Petroleum Institute

REFUND OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS
AT RETIREMENT AGE NOT AUTHORIZED

It is provided in the Act of August 4, 1939, that additional voluntary contributions may be made to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund not to exceed 10% of the aggregate annual basis salary received since August 1, 1920.

The question was raised as to whether these voluntary contributions could be withdrawn upon reaching retirement age rather than maintain them to purchase an additional annuity. This question was submitted to the Acting Comptroller General for decision.

Under date of June 14, the Acting Comptroller General rendered his decision as follows:

"The purpose for which the referred-to voluntary deposits shall be available and the conditions under which refund of such deposits may be made are as indicated in the penultimate paragraph of your letter. To permit the election by an employee to receive such deposits in a lump sum at the time of retirement, as suggested by the Board of Actuaries, would be tantamount to treating such deposits as a 'savings fund' account -- a purpose which is in no-wise manifested by the statute.

"You are advised, therefore, that payments in accordance with the 'proposed additional regulation' would not appear to be authorized under existing law."

Accordingly, if the additional voluntary contributions to the Retirement and Disability Fund are made, and maintained in that fund until such time as the employee reaches retirement age, they may not be withdrawn and shall be used to purchase additional annuities according to the annuity values set up by the Board of Actuaries.

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JUNIOR FOREST RANGERS OF AMERICA

Plant -- Protect -- Enjoy is the motto of the Junior Forest Rangers of America, Inc., an organization of about 200 rural boys which has developed from the "Junior Forest Guards" of the Chickasawhay District, Mississippi National Forests. The purpose of the organization, as listed in the "Conservationist", monthly magazine which is sponsoring the group, are as follows: "Put idle land to work for replanting; Care for,

protect, restore wildlife; Furnish program for rural boys of grammar school age; Prevent and suppress forest fires; Increase per capita income; Get forestry into the woods." It has been suggested that the group call themselves "Junior Conservationists", because of their varied conservation activities.

A boy must be at least 10 years of age to join the organization and must pass an examination which will admit him as a Rookie Ranger, Assistant Junior Ranger, or Junior Ranger. There is a small membership fee, paid by the boy. The classifications carry conservation awards. The "Conservationist", Jackson, Miss., is headquarters for the group.

The Advisory Council for the group is composed of representative citizens. Included are J. S. Vandiver, State Superintendent of Education for Mississippi, R. M. Conarro, Fire Control Specialist, Southern Region, United States Forest Service, Fred B. Merrill, Mississippi State Forester, and W. F. Dearman, Director of the Mississippi State Game and Fish Commission.

It is the hope of the sponsors of the Junior Forest Rangers that the group, now locally organized in Mississippi, will grow into a national youth movement, to be "aided and guided by men and women interested in the development of rural boys and in the conservation of the nation's natural resources."

--- Rachel Lane,
Regional Office

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Roger Sidney Cobb, Abstractor, has been transferred from the Toccoa Ranger District of the Chattahoochee to the Alabama Supervisor's Office, where he will continue to be engaged in acquisition activities.

Herbert Kulp has recently resigned his position as Junior Clerk in the Florida Supervisor's office to accept an appointment with the Post Office Department at Memphis, Tenn.

Erwin A. Heers, Junior Forester on the Crockett Ranger District of the Texas National Forests, has been transferred to Lufkin, Texas, where he has taken up duties as project leader on the forest farming project in Angelina County in cooperation with the Texas State Forest Service.

The following intra-unit changes have been effected:

Ozark - Minor Asst. to Technician Fred L. Buffaloe from the White Rock to the Pleasant Hill Ranger District.

Ouachita - Arvie Lewis, Foreman from the Oden to the Mena Ranger District. Minor Scaler Tom F. Cloud from the Oden to the Jessieville Ranger District. Junior Foreman Homer G. McClure from the Mena to the Oden Ranger District.

Texas - John Bailey Goodwyn, Operator, Equipment, from the Sabine to the Davy Crockett Ranger District.

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THE LOOKOUT

Regional Forester Kircher, and Messrs. Shaw and Schilling of Timber Management attended the Regional Grassland Conference held at Tifton, Georgia July 25 and 26. Mr. Kircher gave an informal talk on grazing on National Forests in the South.

The Regional Office is basking in the reflected glory recently accorded Henry Koen. The Arkansas Forestry Commission dedicated its 1939 annual report to him as "A Pioneer of Forestry in Arkansas".

Announcement is made of the marriage of Miss Janelle Neal of Elberton, Georgia to W. E. Beavers in charge of the Regional Office Mimeograph Room. The Regional Office extends best wishes for happiness to Mr. and Mrs. Beavers.

Recent Office visitors were:

Washington Office: H. C. Hulett
Jay Ward
H. R. Jones
L. C. Stockdale
Leonard O. Carson

Other visitors were: Captain C. J. Harrold, War Department, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Buchanan, University of Ga. Athens, Ga.
O. E. Smith, Champion Paper and Fibre Co., Canton, Ga.
A. J. McMullion, Marianna, Fla.
Major W. A. Maxwell, Eglin Field Valpariso, Florida
Director Denmon, Southern Forest Experiment Station.
Director McArdle, Appalachian Forest Experiment Station.
L. J. Leffelman, Soil Conservation Service, Atlanta, Ga.

Banks Young, AAA., Athens, Ga.

J. W. Huey, AAA., Athens, Ga.

H. B. Donaldson, Forest Management Assistant,
Jackson, Miss.

H. A. Smith, State Forester, Columbia, S. C.

H. B. Bosworth, Pisgah Supervisor, Asheville, N. C.

J. M. Tinker, District Supervisor, Savannah, Ga.

J. R. Nevers, District Supervisor, Pensacola, Fla.

Theodore Tate, Assistant District Supervisor,
Jacksonville, Fla.

* * * *

THE VALUABLE BEAVER

Considerable interest has been aroused during the last year toward bringing back to the Southland the beaver which long ago had been extirpated in much of its range.

Aside from being a most interesting animal to observe, the values of this large rodent have been sung in the farthest corners of the earth. At least one writer maintains that this harmless animal was fundamentally the cause of the French and Indian War and the Seven Years War of Europe. But even without this dubious distinction, which cannot be substantiated by the scientific findings of any period, this animal, a truly American species, should be given a place of honor among the species of this world that have contributed to the welfare of mankind.

I am not referring to the prosaic use of its fur in making coats or Stetsons, but to the contribution this lowly engineer among critters has made to early medicine, to the healing of the ill of mind and body as witnessed by the following excerpts from Watt's Dictionary of Chemistry printed presumably in 1685:

- "1. The skin of a beaver is of great utility in colic, in madness, and in spasms; it cures bed sores; and consumption in children.
- "2. The fat of the beaver is of no less utility in medicine, and it is efficacious in all maladies which effect the nerves. It is useful in epilepsy, and prevents apoplexy and lethargy; stops spasms and convulsions, and is of great help in giddiness, toothache, asthma, dysentery and strains.
- "3. The blood of the Beaver is an efficacious remedy for epilepsy, for on giving it to a beggar boy who was subject to this malady, he was free from it for six days. I made him take some of it a second time, and I have never seen him since, which has made me believe that he was perfectly cured.
- "4. The hair of the beaver is employed to stop hemorrhages of some kinds, as I have lately proved after a surgeon had uselessly employed styptics.
- "5. The teeth of the beaver are attached to the necks of children to facilitate the cutting of their teeth. They are also reduced to powder and given with much success in cases of pleurisy, and they preserve children from epilepsy if taken in some soup.
- "6. Castoreum is a proved remedy for earache, and is not less efficacious in deafness. It disperses abscesses when applied externally, and is the most powerful remedy that we have for pains of gout.

- "7. Castoreum is a very useful remedy in headaches; and is not less efficacious in epilepsy, provided that it be employed immediately. Those who are subject to colic or pains, receive solace from it, and it is a useful remedy for toothache. I have very often employed castoreum with success in headaches, and I have been surprised at the promptitude with which it relieved it. Castoreum also alleviates tumors of the liver, being applied externally, as I have the opportunity of proving to myself every day.
- "8. The wife of a 'mender of old clothes' was so much inconvenienced by sciata, that she could get no rest; I had, however, the happiness of curing her with castoreum.
- "9. Nothing is truer than that it is very difficult to arouse a lethargic person from his stupor; I can, however, boast of having happily cured this malady with castoreum. Nobody is ignorant of the numerous maladies the spleen can cause in the human body by its swelling and painfulness, which I have often dispersed with the same remedy.
- "10. A girl whose memory was completely lost through a malignant fever, recovered it again with the help of castoreum, to the great astonishment of her parents, who thanked me a thousand times.
- "11. Castoreum does much good to mad people; and those who are attacked with pleurisy give proof of its effect every day, however little may be given them. Castoreum destroys fleas; is an excellent stomachic; stops hiccough; induces sleep; prevents sleepiness; strengthens the sight, and taken up the nose it causes sneezing and clears the brain.
- "12. Although authors who have written of venomous animals, put castoreum under the head of poisons, it is used as an antidote to the sting of scorpions, spiders and the Tarantula, the bad effects of opium and even against the pestilence.
- "13. As all these remedies have a limited virtue, and can even sometimes become injurious, one ought not to be surprised if castoreum does not always produce the anticipated result.
- "14. These are now the uses in MEDICINE, and I have myself witnessed most of the effects of which I have spoken, thus I give it no more praise than it merits. The doctors of Ausbourg have introduced it into thirty of the best compositions of the Pharmacopœia.

- "15. A Jew of my acquaintance who visited me occasionally, knowing that I studied this work, communicated to me a secret which he had learnt from his ancestors, who, themselves got it from Solomon who had proved it. He assured me that in order to acquire a prodigious memory and never to forget what one had once read, it was only necessary to wear a hat of the beaver's skin, to rub the head and spine every month with that animal's oil, and to take twice a year, the weight of a gold crown-piece of castoreum.
- "16. As this has much affinity with my subject, I did not wish to omit it, though I allow everyone the liberty of believing what he will concerning it.
- "17. If the reader find some fault in my work, let him remember that I am but a man, and my knowledge is imperfect; and if he discovers in it anything useful, let him return thanks to Him from whom all our knowledge comes."

--- Frederick J. Ruff,
Associate Forester

